

Message Text

SECRET

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 USSS-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 ACDA-19 AF-10 EUR-25

DRC-01 SY-10 CCO-00 /149 W
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P 101554Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4685

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T BEIRUT 12007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE INVOLVEMENT IN HOSTILITIES

REF: STATE 200536

1. AMBASSADOR CONVEYED CONTENTS OF REFTEL TO FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR GENERAL, DR. SADAQA, AND EMBOFF MADE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENCY AND SENIOR DEFENSE DEPT OFFICIALS IN BEIRUT, OCTOBER 10.

2. LEBANESE THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND UNHAPPY IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM OF FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAELIS FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY. HOWEVER, THEY AGAIN EMPHASIZE THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SEALING OFF BORDER COMPLETELY AND POINT OUT (WHICH APPEARS TO US CORRECT) THAT WHILE FIRING OF ROCKETS ON TO ISRAELI SOIL IS OBVIOUS IRRITANT, SINCE THERE WERE NO APPARENT CASUALTIES THEY HOPE WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY SYMBOLIC FIRING WILL NOT PROVOKE MAJOR ISRAELI RETALIATION.

3. PRIMRY FOCUS OF LEBANESE MILITARY EFFORT IS TO
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PREVENT ACTUAL CROSS-BORDER RAIDS BY FEDAYEEN.

4. AGAIN, AS INDICATED EARLIER, WITHOUT DEPRIVING BEIRUT OF NEEDED PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL FEDAYEEN TROUBLE-MAKERS, GOL IS SEVERELY LIMITED IN NUMBER OF TROOPS IT CAN SEND TO SOUTHERN FRONTIER. EVEN SO, LEBANON HAS DONE MORE THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED BY STATIONING 3 REINFORCED BATTALIONS IN SOUTH TO COPE WITH FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES THERE. WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE ACTIVELY PATROLLING AND HAVE DISARMED CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF FEDAYEEN EVEN THOUGH LATTE HAS INVOLVED INTERNAL DISSENSION BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM LEADERSHIP AT TOP GOVERNMENT LEVELS.

5. SINCE DRAFTING ABOVE, PRES FRANGIE SENT MESSAGE TO AMB SAYING HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF OUR DEMARCHES AND WISHED ASSURE US GOL WOULD DO THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TO CONTROL FEDAYEEN ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL BUT MUST TELL US FRANKLY IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ELIMINATE THEM COMPLETELY.
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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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